Protection of Assamese Identity

1398. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating for the protection of identity of Assamese nationality as a process of implementation of Assam accord;

(b) whether Government are chalking out any plan to remove contradictory provision existing in the IMDT Act and Foreigners Act in the process of expediting the detection and deportation of foreigners from Assam; and

(c) if so, by when the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Clause 6 of the Assam Accord reads as follows: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people." A sub-Committee had been constituted to examine the proposals made by the State Government and All Assam Students" Union (AASU) in this regard. Tripartite talks involving the Government of India, Government of Assam and AASU review the progress on the above clause of the Assam Accord from time to time.

(b) and (c) A proposal to repeal the IMDT Act, 1983 is under consideration.

Terrorist activities in Hiniachal Pradesh

1399. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the terrorist activities fa the State of Himachal Pradesh since 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the

interests of the peace loving people of Himachal Pradesh from the terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The details of terrorist activities in the State, are as follows:—

District Chamba

1. On 3.8.98, 35 persons were killed and 11 injured by militants, who (persons/killed and injured) were working in Baragarh-Satrundi road in Tissa Sector. While fleeing back to Doda District of J&K, they abducted 6 persons of Chamba District and took them along.

2. On 18.8.98, 3 persons were killed by 4 armed terrorists at Suppa-Cholidhar, Kihar area of Chamba district.

District Kangra

3. On 11.11.99, an explosion occurred in the Jammu Tawi-Delhi bound Pooja Express near Chakki bridge of District Kangra. In this incident, 14 persons were killed and 47 were injured.

(c) The following steps have been taken to curb terrorist activities in the State :-

(1) Intelligence collection machinery has been geared up;

(2) Patrolling and vigil has been intensified in bordering areas of the Pradesh specially in Chamba district;

(3) Surprise checking of vehicle/persons are being carried out in the bordering areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(4) More intelligence Sub-Units have been established in the sensitive areas of the State;

(5) The State Police and ITBP have been deployed in the bordering areas of Chamba District;

(6) Screening of labourer/shawl venders coming from other States etc. is being carried out regularly and possible hideouts are being kept under surveillance.

(7) VDCs have been constituted in the areas of Chamba district which are contiguous to J and K and SPOs have also been deployed in these areas;

(8) Patrolling and checking of Trains has been intensified;

(9) Use of Sniffer Dogs in the checking of trains; and

(10) Intelligence sharing meetings arc being held regularly between Himahcal and J and K Police and intelligence agencies.

Displaced Kashmiris

1400. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3.S lakh Kashmiris have been displaced due to political violence in the Kashmir Valley over the past one year;

(b) whether 2.2 lakh Tibetans and Sri Lankans who have taken shelter in the country constitute India's largest refugee population; and

(c) if so, what steps Government in initiating to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per available information, 5U22 Kashmiri migrant families are temporarily staying in different parts of the Country due to disturbances in Kashmir Valley. Out of this, majority of Kashmiri migrants are staying in Jammu (29074 families) and Delhi (19338 families).

(b) and (c) *Tibetan:* There were about 93100 Tibetan refugees in India as on 31.3.1999. Majority of these refugees have settled themselves either through self-employment or with Government's assistance under agricultural and handicraft schemes in different States in India. The circumstances under which Tibetan refugees took shelter in India have not materially changed and, as such, they continue to stay as Tibetan refugees in the Country.